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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/700,401 | MAIER ET AL |
| | Examiner Padmashri Ponnaluri | Art Unit 1639 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 aims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included
 with (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS
 NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative
 of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

This communication is responsive to 12/8/03.

The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 6-9, 13 and 14.

The drawings filed on 11/14/2000 are accepted by the Examiner.

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

(a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

licant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted w. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.

(b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.

(c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

dentifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No. _____

Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5 Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6 Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. 01072004.

7 Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8 Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9 Other

Padmashri Ponnaluri
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1639

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's attorney Michael R. Asam on 07 January 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

The non-elected, withdrawn claims 5 and 10-12 have been canceled.

In the specification page 1, line 1, "This application claims the benefit of German Patent Application No. 198 22 077.4 filed May 16. 1998 and PCT Application No. 13C17E1799/03287 filed May 12. 1999." has been replaced with "This application is a 371 of PCT/EP99/03287, filed on May 12, 1999, which claims benefit of German Patent Application No. 198 22 077.4 filed May 16. 1998."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Padmashri Ponnaluri whose telephone number is 703-305-3884.

The examiner is on Flex Schedule and can normally be reached from Monday through Friday
between 7AM and 3.030 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Wang can be reached on 703-306-3217. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0916.


Padmashri Ponnaluri
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1639

Pp
08 January 2004